Breckenridge Co. Ky Aug 17th 1850

Dear Brother

I rec'd your & Father's letter some time since. I am glad to hear that you are all well. You send very important news. Reuben is getting smart in his old age. Love to him. I suppose he thought an increase of heirs necessary on account of the increase of property. Father talks tremendously about the niggers. Tell him I cannot bend my pigeonhole mind to dicker "niggers" or any other animals of so little importance.

Next week is the big College Scrape in Nicholasville. I intended to be there but shall not. I must teach somebody's infernal brats a long time yet before I go to Vermont. I am very anxious to study most intensely, but I don't know as I shall ever be able. The two years I have been in Ky should have been spent in that study. If it is it has been nearly lost to me. Father says if I will go home he will help me, but in the next link he says if I go home & study Medicine & get short of funds I can teach there. If ever I get back to it (& I think it doubtful whether I ever will or not) I mean in some way or other to be in such circumstances that I never shall again be obliged to engage in this God-forsaken damnable business of teaching. I am now

on the look-out for a situation in Mississippi or Louisiana. I don't know however how it will be. I am through here the 14th of Sept & then I shall be off. I have taught 40 weeks without losing any time except two days that I went to Louisville.

Aug 20th

You see I commenced this letter last Saturday, but had not time to finish it. I have eaten water melon till I am almost "bust". The people of Ky are all for the Compromise but I see by the last news that it has gone up "Salt River". The Old Nick will be to pay now. I think it would have been better if it had failed. It would have cooled the great excitement through the country if nothing more. If it had failed, the north would have lost nothing & the South would have gained nothing except what they both need viz, an escape from the danger of disunion & the calming of popular excitement. Congress has been eight months discussing this matter & it is no nearer a settlement than when they met. As it is, neither the north or South have gained any thing, but both have lost much. If the matter is settled by this Congress, it will take a long time yet, with much expense to the country. But it is probable it will be left for another Congress with an increased expense & another long session. The sooner settled, the better.

I dont know if I ever told you what kind of a farmer Mrs Washington is. She has about 70 acres of wheat. 120 acres of oats & 190 acres of corn. Her stock consists of about 400 hogs, 200 sheep. 15 or 20 horses & as many or more cattle & about 25 or 30 "niggers" or babboons. I dont know as I ever told you of her daughter Mary. In the first place, she is a real Kentuckian, that is. She will go her "death" for any body she loves, & will go her "death" against any body she hates. This is a characteristic of nearly all southern people. If they love any one they cannot do too much for him, but if they hate any one they will sooner kill him than not. They act upon extremes, either the extreme of affection or of hatred. Mary is about 5ft 6in Light, black hair, large, black eyes & a perfect Goddess in form. She shows you as beautiful countenance as one need see. In dress she is after the manner of all southern, rich ladies. costly & tasty. Withal, she has a head filled the pearls of literature & a mind cultivated by intercourse with the most refined society. I have not time now to give you a full-drawn picture of her & her qualifications. At some future time I will endeavor to do justice to the subject.

This is the last letter that I shall write from this quarter. I get through here the 13th day of Sept, & then I shall pull up stakes & leave. If you write as soon as you receive this, the letter will have time to reach me before I go. Give my love to all Steve

Direct your answer to Brandenburg as usual & write as soon as you receive, without fail.
My next may be from Miss. La or Texas or some other Southern port. Tell me about the Commencement & all the things of interest.